

Testimony in support for SB 228

Environment Committee, March 4, 2016

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I would like to express **support for SB 228** that would address the proper sheltering for dogs and the additional bills resulting from the work of the Connecticut Task Force for the Humane Treatment of Animals in Municipal and Regional Shelters.

Even in a town like Glastonbury, dogs need better protection from owners who neglect to provide them with adequate shelters. I just have to walk up my own street in Glastonbury to encounter a man arrested for animal cruelty who left his dog out in an inadequate shelter. The poor German Shepherd was near death in a ramshackle dog house in sub-zero temperatures. The dog's condition was described by the veterinarian who finally saw him as "horrific!"

I have also attended and observed many of the meetings of the Connecticut Task Force for the Humane Treatment of Animals in Municipal and Regional Shelters. It became very clear early on that the Task Force was exploring important issues concerning Connecticut's animals that had not been thoroughly addressed before. I strongly support the continuation of the Task Force.

In addition, the bills the Task Force has proposed will make a significant impact. I know from my experience working for a Connecticut rescue organization that a significant number of the stray animals we rescue have never been sterilized. Requiring the spaying and neutering of all adoptable dogs and cats as part of the municipal shelters' adoption process will result in fewer dogs, cats and neglected animals. Some people disregard the current voucher program so their dog(s) never gets spayed or neutered resulting in unwanted litters.

And anyone who cares about the state's animals will endorse a bill that specifies that an Animal Control officer must meet a number of conditions before a dog or other animal is euthanized. When Protectors of Animals was founded 40 years ago it was one of the very few local animal rescue groups in the state. Today there are many, many more all with the mission of saving and placing as many healthy, non-aggressive animals as possible. There are fast and easy alternatives for the ACO rather than resorting to killing the animal.